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**University of Hawaii Awarded Federal Funds  
to Expand Minority Entrepreneurship**

*\$245,000 Provided to Operate Honolulu Minority Business Development Center*

Washington, DC -- Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) announced a new partnership with University of Hawaii to operate the Honolulu Minority Business Development Center. The Center provides management and technical assistance to enhance entrepreneurial activity within the minority business community. An award in the amount of \$245,000 has been presented to David Gillespie, Project Director.

"By partnering with the Pacific Business Center at the University of Hawaii, MBDA is better equipped to reach the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island communities who have historically been marginalized in business enterprise development. Our goal is to grow the number and size of these businesses and all minority business in the United States," said MBDA San Francisco Regional Director, Linda M. Marmolejo.

With access to the entire Pacific region, the Honolulu Minority Business Development Center, and its network of strategic partners, will focus on building and strengthening medium and large minority business enterprises. Particular emphasis will be placed on agriculture, construction, real estate development, retail and tourism as well as other businesses poised to create new jobs and generate revenues in excess of \$0.5 million.

"The American dream of owning a successful business is perfectly aligned with the President's vision of an ownership society. I am delighted the University of Hawaii is on board to assist minority entrepreneurs throughout the Hawaiian Islands and help MBDA achieve the President's vision," added MBDA National Director, Ronald N. Langston.

*The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is the only federal agency created specifically to foster the establishment and growth of minority-owned businesses in the United States. MBDA works closely with corporate America, academic institutions, professional trade associations and governmental agencies to help minority entrepreneurs access capital, procurement and contract opportunities, technical assistance and business development services. For more information, visit [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov)*

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